



Legislative Report

July 12, 2013

Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program Quarterly Update

Provided by the Animal Industry Division

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)

Act No. 247 Public Acts of 2008, Approved by the Governor July 17, 2008, Filed with the Secretary of State July 18, 2008, EFFECTIVE DATE: July 18, 2008.*

AN ACT to make appropriations ...

Sec. 457. On or before October 15, 2008, and on a quarterly basis thereafter, the department shall report to the senate and house agriculture committees, the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on agriculture, and the senate and house fiscal agencies on the department's progress toward meeting the USDA requirements as outlined in the March 2007 bovine TB program review. The report shall include, but is not limited to, information and data on: wildlife risk mitigation plan implementation in the modified accredited zone; implementation of a movement certificate process; progress toward annual surveillance test requirements set out in the June 2007 MOU; compliance efforts and rates for animals crossing the Mackinac Bridge; efforts to work with slaughter facilities in Michigan, as well as those that slaughter a significant number of animals from Michigan; educational programs and information for Michigan's livestock community; any other item the legislature should be aware of that will promote or hinder efforts to achieve bovine TB-free status for Michigan.

Table of Contents

Topic	Page
A. MDARD Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program Activities	2
B. MDARD Bovine Tuberculosis Surveillance	3
C. Bovine Tuberculosis Affected Herds	3
D. Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project	5
E. Communications/Outreach	6

A. MDARD Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program Activities

Why We Do What We Do

Michigan's citizens are protected from exposure to bovine tuberculosis (TB) organism as a result of the Bovine TB Eradication Program. The Michigan Bovine TB Program was established under Public Act 466, of 1988, as amended, the Animal Industry Act, and is required under Federal Law in order for Michigan producers to participate in interstate commerce of animals (9CFR Part 77) and to maintain a state status (9CFR Part 92). Bovine TB has economic and human health implications and the program is of high visibility and interest to farmers, producer groups, hunters, and the federal government. The disease is of high interest at the national level and other states would close their markets to Michigan cattle, meat, and milk products if the program were reduced or eliminated. 14,000 cattle producers in Michigan maintain over 1.1 million cattle each year. The Michigan program prevents farm to farm transmission of bovine TB and provides access to national and international markets. The 2,200 dairy producers not located within the modified accredited zone may sell Grade A milk without having to annually TB test their herds.

Michigan's Split State Status

On May 13, 2013, the TB Program discussed Michigan's TB status with the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Veterinary Services (USDA-VS) in light of finding infected herds in Saginaw, Gratiot, and Midland Counties in March and April 2013. USDA-VS indicated that they would not make any determination about Michigan's TB status until the investigation of the Saginaw County infected herd was substantially completed. The TB Program is anticipating that the investigation will be largely completed by November 2013.

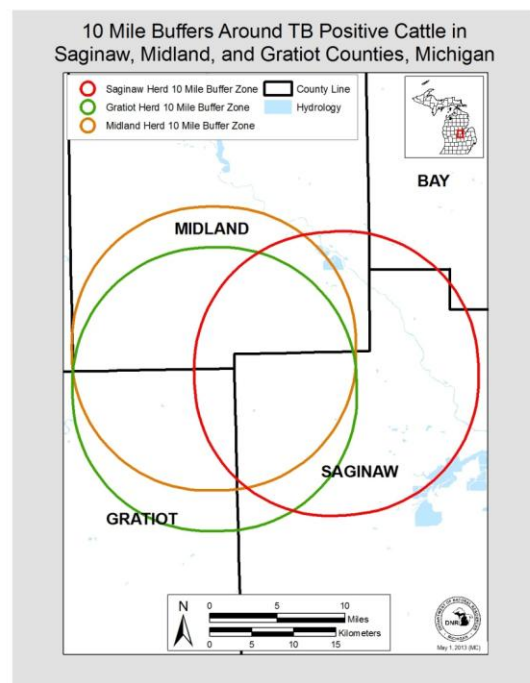
Circle Testing in Saginaw-Gratiot-Midland Circles

As a result of discovering TB infected farms in Saginaw, Gratiot, and Midland Counties, three overlapping special surveillance zones, each with a 10-mile radius around the infected farm, have been established (see map at right).

The Saginaw circle was designated April 26, 2013, and all tests must be accomplished by September 26, 2013. 73 cattle herds have been identified in the Saginaw circle. Currently, 49 of these have been tested.

The Gratiot and Midland circles were designated on May 6, 2013, and all testing must be completed by November 6, 2013. There are 74 herds in the Gratiot and Midland circles. Currently, 14 of these have been tested.

Currently, all circle tested herds have been negative.



Public Meetings in Saginaw County

On April 8, 2013, two public meetings were held at the Jonesfield Township Hall in Merrill. Dr. Steve Halstead moderated both meetings. Program staff from the Bovine TB Eradication Program, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) made presentations relating to the cattle, the wildlife, and the public health sides of the Saginaw County situation. After the presentations, staff from MSU Extension asked questions that had been submitted by the audience to a panel composed of Dr. Halstead and the above mentioned presenters. Both meetings were well attended by both the public and media outlets with 60-70 people attending each meeting.

Public Meeting in Alcona County

About a dozen local producers were in attendance on May 14, 2013, at the Mitchell Township Hall in Curran. TB Program staff gave a presentation about Affected Herd #57 in Curran as well as information about the situation in Saginaw County and the status of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/Split State Status discussions with USDA-VS.

Public Meeting in Gratiot County

50 members of the public were in attendance May 20, 2013, at the Bethany Township Hall in Breckenridge. Program staff from the Bovine TB Eradication Program, MDNR, and MDCH gave a presentation on the situation relating to bovine TB in Gratiot and Midland Counties. MSU Extension staff were on hand to moderate a question and answer session after the presentation, where MDARD, MDNR, and MDCH staff provided responses to the public's questions.

Risk Assessment

USDA-VS commissioned the Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health to do a risk assessment of the 11 counties that make up Michigan's Modified Accredited Zone and Modified Accredited Advanced Zone. On June 19, USDA-VS and MDARD reviewed the preliminary work done on the Risk Assessment related to Michigan's proposal for expanding the TB Free area of the State. The authors have indicated that the full report will be available for review by the end of July.

B. MDARD Bovine Tuberculosis Surveillance

For calendar year 2013, as of the end of June, there have been 161 whole herd tests in the Modified Accredited Zone and 147 whole herd tests within the Modified Accredited Advanced Zone. Currently for calendar year 2013, surveillance testing has led to the identification of two TB infected herds. Additionally two TB infected herds have been found in 2013 as a result of trace testing.

C. Bovine Tuberculosis Affected Herds

Update on Infected Herd #55 – Alpena County

This is a dairy herd located in Alpena County found to be infected with bovine tuberculosis in November 2012. This herd has been under quarantine and undergoing a test-and-removal process. The department hopes to lift the quarantine in September 2013.

Update on Infected Herd #56 – Saginaw County

This large dairy herd in Saginaw County was found to have bovine TB on March 25, 2013. USDA-VS has agreed to depopulate this farm and the process of depopulation has begun. The TB Program plans on having all cattle removed from this farm by early August 2013 so the cleaning and disinfecting process can begin.

Because the strain of bovine TB found on this farm is the Michigan strain, an important part of the investigation has been to look at wildlife in the area. MDNR, working together with USDA Wildlife Services (USDA-WS), sampled 80 deer within two miles of the Saginaw herd in March and April of 2013. All 80 of these deer were necropsied and no gross lesions were found. Additionally, all 80 of the deer had culture samples run from tissue samples and all of the cultures have come back negative. MDNR will continue to do disease surveillance in the Saginaw area for three years and this will occur during the normal deer hunting season.

Also, 19 raccoons and 3 opossums were removed from the Saginaw farm by USDA-WS. No gross lesions were observed in any of these small mammals and the cultures on these animals' tissues are still pending. Additionally, 19 barn cats that were drinking raw milk were removed from the Saginaw farm. To date, 11 of the tissue sample cultures from these cats have cultured positive for bovine TB. There are a few cultures still pending on these cats' tissues. Public health authorities have been involved with the situation in Saginaw, Gratiot, and Midland Counties from the very beginning.

There are 187 trace work orders that have been generated from the Herd #56 infection to date with 120 of these work orders completed. The two primary source traces have been tested. One additional source trace herd will be tested in September. Traces from seven farms that had a particularly close relation to the index farms, in as much as they either received calves from the index farm last year or were feeding milk from the index farm, have all been investigated. Two exposed traces were found infected with bovine TB (herds #58 and #59) among them. No TB was found on the remaining five farms or on any of the other exposed trace herds that have been tested so far.

Update on Infected Herd #57 – Alcona County

This small beef herd in Alcona County was determined to be infected on April 3 2013 as a result of routine surveillance testing. This herd had been previously infected in the early 2000s and was not participating in the Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project.

The herd was depopulated on May 8, 2013. The premises is in the process of completing cleaning and disinfection. Pastures must remain vacant over the summer and the farm must implement a herd plan to mitigate the risk that the herd becomes re-infected prior to being released from quarantine.

To date, the trace investigation has found no evidence of transmission of TB from this herd to any other herds.

Deer and small mammal removal on Herd #57 (Alcona area) and surrounding farms was completed on May 9. The total number of animals removed from this effort was: 36 deer, 18 raccoon, and 8 opossum. There has been no indication of TB in any of these samples to date. Cultures are pending.

New TB Infected Herd Identified in Gratiot County – Infected Herd #58

The owner of this small dairy beef farm had acquired raw milk from the Saginaw County farm which was fed to various calves. A test of these calves indicated the potential presence of infection, so the animals were sent to the laboratory at the Michigan State University Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health (DCPAH) and some of them were found to be infected with bovine TB. The herd was designated as affected May 1, 2013. USDA agreed to depopulate this farm and all remaining animals were removed June 19, 2013. No further lesions were found. A herd plan is being developed for the herd. Cleaning and disinfection must be completed prior to a release of quarantine.

USDA-WS will be trapping small mammals, including barn cats on this farm. To date, there are 100 trace work orders that have been generated from the Herd #58 infection with 45 of these work orders having been completed. Currently, no further infection has been discovered as result of any of the trace investigations relating to Herd #58.

A special TB surveillance area (ten-mile circle) was designated on May 6 and letters were sent out to nine known cattle producers included in this area. Much of this circle overlapped with the previously designated special surveillance areas (related to Herds 56 and 59).

New TB Infected Herd Identified in Midland County – Infected Herd #59

This is a small freezer beef herd in Midland County that had several exposed animals from the TB infected herd in Saginaw County. The exposed cattle were taken to DCPAH and one was found to be infected with bovine TB. The herd was designated as affected with bovine TB on May 1, 2013.

On June 7, the remaining cattle in Herd #59 were removed. No further lesions were found. A herd plan is being developed for the herd. Cleaning and disinfection must be completed prior to a release of quarantine.

A special TB surveillance area (ten-mile circle) was designated on May 6 and letters were sent to nine known cattle producers in this area. Much of this circle overlapped with the previously designated special surveillance areas (related to Herds 56 and 58). There was one trace investigation stemming from this herd which was tested and found to be free of disease.

D. Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project

The Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project began in 2008 with a goal to enroll 950 commercial farms with biosecurity practices that reduce the risk of cattle coming into direct, or indirect, contact with bovine tuberculosis infected free-ranging white-tailed deer. Since 2008, there have been 1,003 commercial and freezer beef herds which have enrolled in the project. Currently, 970 (97%) of these farms' wildlife risk mitigation action plans have been verified.

E. Communications/Outreach

Past Meetings

Curran Public Meeting:

On May 14, 2013, Dr. Rick Smith provided an update on disease investigation activities to Alcona County residents in Curran, Michigan.

Breckenridge Public Meeting

On May 20, 2013, a public meeting was held at Bethany Township Hall in Breckenridge, Michigan regarding the bovine TB investigation and the detection of two additional TB positive herds traced out from the original Saginaw County Dairy herd.

Interagency and Public Health Update:

On May 31, 2013, MDARD's Dr. Rick Smith and MDNR's Dr. Steve Schmitt provided the local public health officials in Saginaw, Gratiot, and Midland Counties with an update on the bovine TB investigation in their region.

Gratiot County Fair Board

On June 10, 2013, Dr. Rick Smith, the TB Program Coordinator presented information about infected Herd #55 and addressed general questions from the Fair Board about the TB Program.

Saginaw County Fair Board

On June 13, 2013, Dr. Smith visited with the Saginaw County Fair Board in Chesaning and provided a bovine TB update.

Future Meetings

Saginaw Rotary Public Meeting

Saginaw Rotary Club will receive a bovine TB update from Dr. Smith at noon on Wednesday, July 31. He will speak for 20 minutes and give a ten minute Q & A at the Saginaw Club, 219 North Washington Avenue, Saginaw, MI 48607

Regional Michigan Association of Counties

On August 15, at 11:00 a.m., Dr. Smith will provide the Regional Association of Counties with an update on bovine TB activities at 11:00 a.m. at Elk Ridge Golf Course, 9400 Rouse Road, in Atlanta, Michigan.

News Releases

April 30, 2013:

Protect Michigan Animals: Vaccinate and Identify http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1572_3628-301429--,00.html

Bovine, cervids, dogs, goats, and sheep must have ID before movement

Lansing - It is finally springtime in Michigan, and today animal health officials at the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) are reminding Michigan pet and livestock owners that vaccinating against common diseases can save lives, and permanently identifying animals can bring them safely home or to the market.

April 18, 2013:

Northeast Michigan Producers Reminded to Keep Deer Away From Cattle

http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1572_3628-300479--,00.html

Lansing - The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) is reminding cattle and dairy producers in Northeast Lower Michigan of the disease risk, especially bovine tuberculosis (TB) exposure, involved with allowing deer access to their cattle and feed.

May 3, 2013:

Trace Investigation Confirms Bovine TB in Offspring

http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1572_3628-301901--,00.html

Epidemiologists work to stamp out disease

Lansing - The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) today announced that offspring purchased from the bovine Tuberculosis (TB) positive Saginaw County dairy farm, and traced to farms in Midland and Gratiot Counties, are also TB positive.

May 9, 2013:

Annual Testing in Bovine TB Area Finds Infected Herd

http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1572_3628-302451--,00.html

State testing program designed to help ID disease in endemic area.

Lansing - Annual whole-herd testing identified bovine Tuberculosis (TB) on a small Alcona County beef farm. A bovine TB informational meeting was held in Mitchell Township Hall at 7:00 p.m., on May 14, in Curran, Michigan.

Traditional and Social Media Coverage

[66 Saginaw County farms undergoing bovine tuberculosis testing](#) minbcnews.com

SAGINAW COUNTY -- The Saginaw County farming community is on pins and needles. 66 farms are undergoing testing for tuberculosis in cows after one herd tested positive. Now, state agriculture officials are trying to contain it. The farm where the TB ...

[Paterson: England 'odd man out' on bovine TB](#) Farmers Weekly

In New Zealand, possums are the key vector for the spread of bovine TB into ... "All I have seen confirms what I saw when I travelled to Michigan (USA) in ...

[Bovine TB spreads to 2 more counties](#) WNEM Saginaw

Entertainment news from the AP Following the diagnosis of bovine tuberculosis in cattle at a Saginaw County farm, the Michigan Dept. of Agriculture and ...

[Trace investigation confirms bovine TB in offspring](#) East Village Magazine

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development ... In March, a Saginaw County dairy farm was discovered to be bovine TB ...

[Bovine tuberculosis found in Midland, Gratiot counties, months ...](#) Bay City Times

SAGINAW COUNTY, MI — Bovine tuberculosis has been detected in Midland and Gratiot counties, according to the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

[Gratiot, Midland farms test positive for bovine...](#) The Morning Sun

By MARK RANZENBERGER/@ranzenberger Bovine tuberculosis has been detected on cattle farms in Gratiot and Midland counties, the Michigan Department of ...

[MDARD expands examination of bovine TB outbreak](#) Argus Press

LANSING — The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Friday announced that offspring purchased from the bovine Tuberculosis (TB) ...
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[State holds meeting about bovine TB herd](#) Alpena News

CURRAN - Michigan's tuberculosis eradication program coordinator met with cattle ... DNA tests confirmed it was bovine TB. The infected herd, the 57th ...

[Frequently Asked Questions about Bovine Tuberculosis](#) MSU Extension

The diagnosis of four herds infected with bovine Tuberculosis in the first 5 months of 2013 is an reminder that all Michigan dairy and beef cattle producers ...

[If Michigan can track cattle birth to plate, why not add food ...](#) Barfblog

Cattle in Michigan have been electronically tagged and tracked since 2010 in a bid to control bovine tuberculosis. According to NPR, whenever a steer or cow ...